







THE ROGOW

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SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR ALL VARIANT COVERS

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SERIAL MURDERER STRIKES AGAIN



'LADY PHANTOM' AT SCENE OF THE CRIMF











































AN INTERVIEW WITH NEW, ONGOING SERIES WRITER GAIL SIMONE

What was the deciding factor when you signed on to the new RED SONJA project? What most appealed to you about the character, and what did you hope to bring to the series?

Gail Simone: Ive talked about this a lot. I tove sword and scrony stuff. I adore all fantasy, really, but revisions something wonderfully intoxicating about half-nakeau, tanned swordmasters fighting loadshome demonspauunder a blazing sun. I am always trying to get that clarg of blades in my comics—I put it in whether it fits or not, in books like Secret Six, Wonder Woman, and even The Atom.

So, in the genre I love, one name stands above all other female warriors, and that's Red Sonia.

I didn't take the book so much as pounce on it, growling.

I love Sonia.

I have to say, Dynamite has been extraordinary, Publisher Nick Barrucci wanted me on this book and has been behind me every step of the way with encouragement and enthusiasm, and he's backed it up in all the ways that matter to me...top arists, great presentation, and a real concern for quality. That's why the his inclusity, I went to fell stories. And when a softeness to containous.

So I am very, very happy.

You've gone on record saying that the new RED SONJA will have its share of humor. That's a tone rarely seen previously in the adventures of our grim heroine. What are your thoughts on bringing mirth to her epic tales?

GS: I don't want Sonja to be doing praffalls and tolling knock-knock jokes (but if she did, they'd be really filtry). But looking back over some of her earlier tales, she was a bit less distant and a bit more rowdy, and I do think that's a really entertaining aspect of her character. My Sonja drinks and carouses and frequents low establishments with compatriots of questionable character.

The first scene we see her in, she's passed out drunk.

She's not Deadpool, but I don't see her as an ice queen, either. I fold the artist, the wonderful Walter Geovani, that Sonja isn't cold-blooded, she's hot-blooded!

What can you tell us about the new sidekick characters you'll be introducing into the RED SONJA mythos?

GS: Well, in keeping with the entertainment value of the book, Sonja gets herself two quite unwelcome sidekicks, the tomboy twins Ayla and Nias, who are sixteen years old and IMMEDIATELY get on her nerves. Sonja is many things...a general, a conqueror, a queen, She is NOT a babysitter.

The new RED SONJA is something of a celebration of women, as one of the industry's premiere female creators takes on one of its most iconic heroines. Also, a number of female artists are being tapped to contribute their bold interpretations of Red Sonja for the covers. How do you see this idea of gender affecting the storytelling or presentation?

GS: It spiraled completely out of control in this beautiful way. It's embarrassing, but I really thought, once again, that I was the freak, I was the outsider, the only female who loved Red Sonja outright. So I had this idea to ask the top female artists in the industry to do the covers and Dynamite ran with it beyond my dreams...but I thought it would take some convincing.

Not only did all the artists we asked immediately agree, they all confessed their secret love for Sonja. They adore her Lots of the artists submitted multiple sketches because they couldn't stop, and many top names submitted selecthes without even being asked, they love Sonja so much, and are dying to see this project. [2] at a series of sketches from a hero of mine, an Eisner winner, out of the blue and they were so beautiful we outlidn't hoose whet to nick.

We asked for the top female comic artists from several disciplines including cartooning, animation and manga. People are going to freak out at these covers, it became more than a fun idea, it became a bit of a statement, as well.

I also have to say, these are some of the sexiest comics covers I've ever seen, period.

RED SONJA's two main nemeses in the series thus far have been the sorcerers Kulan Gath and Thulsa Doom. Will you be bringing these villains back, or are you going to introduce new baddies into the mix?

GS: I have a lot of love for Thulsa Doom, that isn't out of the question. But we are also hoping to see a lot of new readers, so I want to introduce past elements very carefully. We also want to showcase one witings. I am immersing myself in Robort E. Howard works right now, not just his barberains stuff, and we will bring hat mod in more and more. But I want a clean place solling for new reades. Two been druig a bon of once, and the second of the control of the cont

So we are creating new villains, including the death-on-wheels DARK ANNYSIA, who hates Sonja for reasons they could never have done in the old Manuel series

The universe of RED SONJA extends back decades to the original Robert E. Howard CONAN stories. What are your thoughts on contributing to such a long-standing mythos? Is there a particular era / storyline / creator that you look back on as the inspiration for what you'll be doing on the series?

GS: Well, that's an interesting question...but I write these characters with astounding histories all the time, I love doing that. Conan predates Superman by only a handful of years. It's kind of my dream as a writer, to create things that other writers will be inspired by long after I am gone.

It's also true that despite the bad rep that sword and sorcery has for gender issues, Robert E. Howard really created a bunch of astonishingly powerful and interesting female adventures. I love it, I feel very much at home.

The biggest inspiration is the world that Howard created, the mood and tone. Cimmeria and its surrounding countries, they have that wonderful power of fictional geography to FEEL real, like somewhere that exists. They have that Gotham Chly/Czhliddle Earth thing, that they don't exist...but they damn well should.

And it's always fun to visit any country where there are monsters and loincloths, I always say.



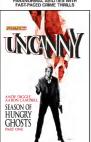






DYNAMITE IN THE NEWS - MAY 2013

ANDY DIGGLE'S UPCOMING UNCANNY SERIES FROM DYNAMITE BLENDS PARANORMAL ABILITIES WITH



udly confirms that fan-favorite writer Andy Diggle (Daredevil) will helm the the second title in its burgeoning Crime Line. Illustrated by the immensely talented Aaron Campbell (The Shadow). Uncanny #1 will ship with two covers by superstar artists

Jock (The Losers, Detective Comics) and

Sean Phillips (Criminal, Fatale), split in equal ratio. A special exclusive variant will be available as well, featuring the artwork of Dan Panosian (Avengers: Citizen Kang) and ered only to comic fans who enroll scription programs with their preferred comic book retailer.

Uncanny introduces Weaver, a man born with an uncanny ability that allows him to steal other people's skills - their n abilities, and expertise - for a limited time. A man with a power like that could change the world; but as a professional gambler, con-man, and thief-for-hire, Weaver prefers to look out for Number One. That is, until he finds himself drawn into a dangerous game of international intrigue where the rules

keep changing, the players are hidden the first thing he stands to lose is his life. And maybe, just maybe, he isn't so un

The anticipation for Andy Diggle's Uncanny series has been building since New York Comic-Con 2012, when it was announced that the red-hot writer would be helming an upcoming, yet unspecified series as part of Dynamite's highly-touted Crime Line. With a huge list of high-profile comics under his belt (including *Daredevil*, Heliblazer, and Thunderbolts), plus as one of the industry's premiere writers of crime fic tion thanks to his acclaimed work on The Losers, Diggle will certainly bring a wealth of genre experience and edgy innovation to the new Dynamite launch, a title with the foreboding tag line: "Six billion skill sets. foreboding tag line: One last chance."

I'd been talking to Nick Barrucci off and on for years about doing something for Dynamite, and I'm thrilled that we've lined up a project that pushes all of my buttons, says Diggle. "Uncanny is an edgy, fast-paced crime thriller with just a hint of the paranormal. In other words, exactly the kind of comics I love to write - and to read. It's very freeing, not having to pull your punches, to be able to present new characters without the reader knowing their entire life history in advance. Instead, the reader gets to discov-er this new world as Weaver does. They go on that journey with him. And it goes to some pretty dark places.

*Andy Digale is one of the most incredible writers in comics today. As a fan, I find each writers in comics today. As a 18n, 11no ex-series that he writes more engaging than the previous one," says Nick Barrucci, Dynamite's President/CEO." I enjoyed his Hellblazer run, but when I read his Green Arrow: Year One and The Losers, I wanted to read more of Andy's work and sought out his earlier comic series to read. And I'm glad I did! Having now read much of his body of work. I have a deep respect for his skill as a iter. After several years of exclusivity with DC and Marvel, I'm excited that Andy will be working with Dynamite on a series and genre that he loves. Uncanny is going to blow everyone's minds.

Uncanny #1 will be available for comic retailers to order through the April Previews catalog, corresponding to June-shipping prod-

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cci, CEO / Pub

FEATURED REVIEWS

MISS FURY #1 (UNLEASH THE FANBOY):

"The gist of Miss Fury's birth is never drink anything in Africa. Or do, and become an awesome Cat Lady Sex Goddess with a small

klepto fetish. The art... is phenomenal. I heartily look forward to the second issue and give this one a five out of five. I have no complaints and I feel like it has started with a great platform to launch from."

(BORG.COM): "Writer Rob Williams immerses the reader in the middle of Miss Fury's first predicament in issue #1, before providing some needed ori-gin backstory. (He) keeps true to the character of the 1940s with updates for 2013 audi ences and provides enough to keep readers coming back for more next month."

THE GEEKALITY

This is a very cool story filled with sex, vio lence and time travel right out the gate by Robert Williams, Herbert's art is very sleek with several sexy images of ter Marla Drake. ... I am excited to see where this book goes

MARK WAID'S GREEN HORNET #1 (GEEK OF OZ):

net#1 is just and why Mark Waid is the writer to follow. As he did for characters like The Hulk, Daredevil, and Superman, Waid made me fall in love with the Green Hornet a character I previously didn't give a toss about. It's wellpaced, punchy, and well worth your four

MARK WAID'S GREEN HORNET #1 (BROKEN FRONTIER):

With strong art from Indro and industry icon Waid elevating his game as befits a character of such pedigree, Dynamite's new ongoing will without a doubt position The Green Hornet at the forefront of cutting edge super-

BIONIC MAN ANNUAL #1 (COMIC BOOK THERAPY):

(CUMIC BOOK THERAPY): "Beatty writes a fast-paced and action-packed story. Annuals are usually high octane events that give you a one-shot story while setting things up for the future. Beatty does that well."

BIONIC MAN ANNUAL #1 (UNLEASH THE FANBOY): "Fluid and fast-paced!"

DYNAMITE IN STORES IN NOW! THE BLACK BAT #1

BRIAN BUCCELLATO TALKS REVAMPING PULP HERO BLACK BAT ORIGINALLY POSTED ON COSMICBOOKNEWS.COM



Dynamite will soon be unleashing a comic book built around the pulp hero Black Bat, a character which must have been an influence for everyone from Bob Kane to Stan Lee.

Cosmic Book News Managing Editor Byron Brewer exclusively sat down with Flash co-writer Brian Buccellato to discuss his revision and revamping of this classic hero for a modern comic-buving

Cosmic Book News: Brian, why are pulp heroes such a rich area to mine for many writers? How do you see this pulp hero, Black Bat?

Brian Buccellato: I can't pretend to be an expert on why pulp heroes are so often revived and used as inspiration. But I guess it might be the allure of the gritty, heroic, sometimes dark, sometimes unexplainable worlds that they painted. I also think pulp stories are entrenched with the kind of proactive and flawed characters that many are naturally drawn to. I would say that my take on the Black Bat is both of those things ... he is a flawed protagonist who is actively trying to right his past wrongs.

CBN: Tell us a little about how you look to "modernize" Black Bat, if you will. And tell us about the man behind the mask? Who is he?

Brian Buccellato: My modernization of the Black Bat and his alter ego, Tony Quinn, is built around his motivations for what he is doing. The original version was pretty straight forward -- do-gooder DA is blinded by his nemesis, then becomes a gun-toting hero who operates outside the law to bring criminals to justice. Writing stories from that perspective didn't interest me, so I had to look for an angle that was something I would want to explore. So I changed Tony to a morally bankrupt defense attorney for the mob, who gets in too deep with his murderous clients as is almost killed. When he is given a second chance on life, he decides to set right all of his previous wrongs. But the challenge for Tony is knowing where to draw the line between justice and revenge.

art ... except maybe coloring some covers.

CRN: I understand you did some of the visuals and radasions yourself. Tell us about that process? Will you be doing any art on the

Brian Buccellato: Yeah, the final design is mine ... but it was only after numerous iterations by some really good artists that we all decided to go with one of my designs. I won't be doing any of the

CBN: Black Bat, I am sure, influenced Bob Kane and perhaps many others on their handling of Batman. Tell us about how you see both characters, their similarities and differences,

Brian Buccellato: Batman is a classic superhero that operates outside the law to bring bad guys to justice. He has a definite line that he won't cross and is VERY clear in his path. The Black Bat, however is not ours where those lines are and isn't even project shooting to kill as a means of setting things right. Tony Quinn has a debt that he owes to the world and despite his own moral failings, he is making an effort to pay that debt. Batman does what he does because he doesn't want anyone to go through what he did as a young boy. Sure, they both have capes and masks and use bat imagery ... but that's where the similarities end.

CBN: Who is Black Bat's main big-bad? Explain his/her motivation and is there a personal connection like Superman/Luthor or Reed Richards/Doom?

Brian Buccellato: Oliver Snate is the crime boss that literally CUT OUT Tony's Quinn's eyes with a pocket knife. He runs the city and is as ruthless a kingpin as you could find. All criminal roads lead to Snate, and that is where the Black Bat is headed. It is absolutely personal for Tony

CBN: There is a fittle Daredevil feel here as well. Do you feel there are similarities?

Brian Buccellato: It's pretty obvious that the Black Bat was a direct inspiration to Stan the Man, both characters go blind and are lawyers by trade. But those elements are integral to the Black Bat's origin, so I have elected to keep them. I'm sure some people are going to accuse me of ripping of Daredevil, but there's not much I can do about that

CBN: There seem to be many street level heroes today in comics, many vigilantes. What makes Black Bat rise above the pack?

Brian Buccellato: There are no new stories in any genre, really. So it's about the specific ways of dealing with the character and his arcijourney. It's HOW you choose to tell the story and what things you focus on thematically that can make or break it. I think I found a unique take that differs from the more established street level heroes and I hope it will resonate with readers. As far as rising ABOVE the pack ... that's not my concern. I write to the best of my ability and let the chips fall where they may.

Cosmic Book News would like to thank Brian Buccellato for his time and wish him luck on this new book, set to debut sometime this vear. Thanks also to Nick Barrucci, Dynamite publisher and CEO, who helped make this interview possible.





